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PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUTHOR, NAKAMURA TOSHIKI BY BUYING THE MANGA WHEN/IF ITS AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION

NO. 6 YAMANAKA KANTA
ANDOU SORA
(16)
HIGH SCHOOL,
FIRST YEAR
UOOH!!
HOWW!!

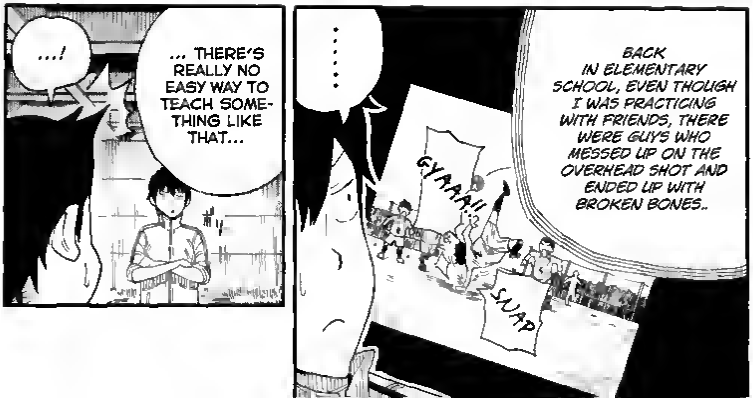
#6
Yamanaka
Kanta
...
so...
SO
COOL...
SMACK
WHUMP
.....

GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR TODAY...
... PHEW.
slide?
THAT WAS AWESOME!!!
... A KID...? ONE FROM THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
YOU'RE AMAZING, ONII-CHAN!!!
... A REQUEST...?
I'VE GOT A REQUEST! IT'S ABOUT YOUR TECHNIQUE!!
HEY, HEY, ONII-CHAN!!
INU
INU
スイスイ

THAT FINISHING MOVE JUST NOW...
PLEASE TEACH IT TO ME!!
EH?
.....
WHAT-EVER IT IS, PLEASE JUST TEACH IT TO ME!!
IT'S NOT REALLY A SPECIAL TECHNIQUE OR ANY-THING.
AH.. YOU MEAN THE OVERHEAD SHOT..
WHAT YOU DID JUST NOW!! THAT THING WHERE YOU SPIN AND TURN, AND IT GOES WHAM!!
FINISHING MOVE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SUDDENLY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS A LITTLE..
HMM
I'M BEGGING YOU!!

I'M KANTA!!
YAMANAKA KANTA!!
NINE YEARS OLD.
NICE TO MEET YA!!
... HEY.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AND AGE?

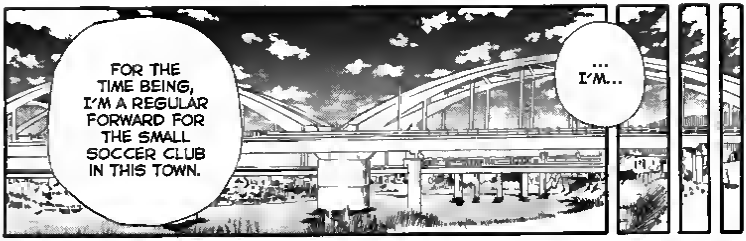
THAT'S STILL A LITTLE RISKY...
... NINE YEARS OLD... THIRD OR FOURTH YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... HM...


...!
... THERE'S REALLY NO EASY WAY TO TEACH SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
.....
GYAAA!!
SWAP
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EVEN THOUGH I WAS PRACTICING WITH FRIENDS, THERE WERE GUYS WHO MESSED UP ON THE OVERHEAD SHOT AND ENDED UP WITH BROKEN BONES..

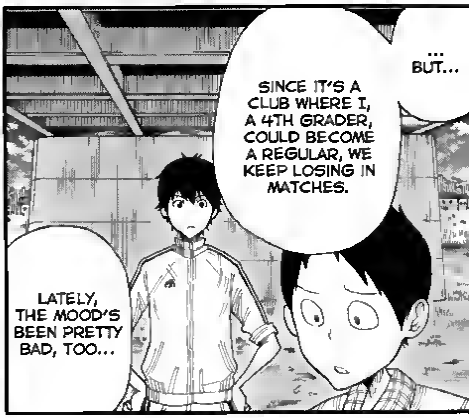
WHY DO YOU WANT TO USE A SPECIAL SHOOTING TECHNIQUE?
KANTA... WAS IT?
... ANYWAY,
...!
... EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
Boo! Boo!
C'MOOON, DON'T BE SO STINGY!
EH~~!!
IF YOU HAVE THAT SORT OF REASON FOR DOING AN OVERHEAD SHOT, THERE'S A GREATER LIKELIHOOD YOU'LL GET HURT.
... IT'S NO GOOD AFTER ALL.
... THAT'S ...
BECAUSE IT'S COOL.
... HAAH?
NOPE, NOT DOING IT!!
SO GO ON HOME. GET GOING.
ONI!-CHAN, I'M BEGGING YOU... C'MON!!
WAI...

.....
3
.....
... TCH.
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM ...?
INU
ガサ
MU-FUFU~
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS,
I'LL WATCH IN SECRET AND STEAL IT..
I'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH A SAFE WAY OF GOING ABOUT THIS..
GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED IT'LL BE TROUBLESOME IF HE MIMICS ME
HE'S NOT VERY STEALTHY..
rustle
scrape

SMACK
SMACK
Hrrrrrrrr ggghhh^~
LISTEN ...
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO YOU CAN'T LEARN IT SO EASILY...
WHY AREN'T YOU DOING THAT THING FROM BEFORE!?
WHY!?
HUH?
MATCH? MAYU?
AH...
AT NEXT WEEK'S GAME, IF WE DON'T GET SOME GOALS AND WIN, MAYU WILL-
BUT...
IF I CAN'T DO THAT, I'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE!!!

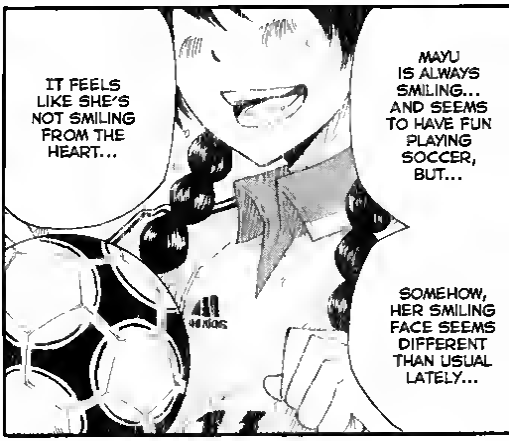

FOR THE TIME BEING, I'M A REGULAR FORWARD FOR THE SMALL SOCCER CLUB IN THIS TOWN.
... I'M...

THE ONE WHO FEELS MOST RESPONSIBLE ...
IS A SIXTH-YEAR GIRL WHO'S ALSO A FORWARD LIKE ME, ODA MAYU.

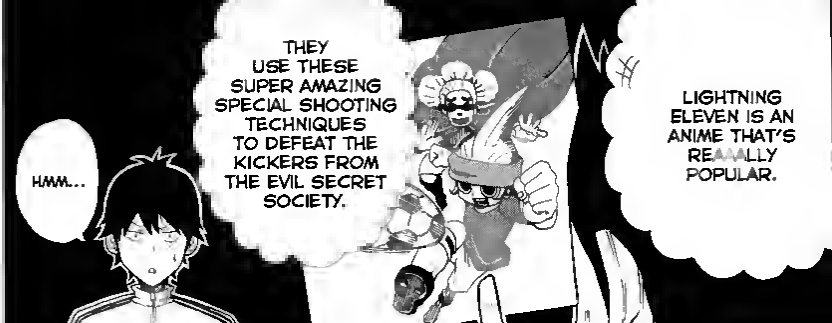

... BUT...
SINCE IT'S A CLUB WHERE I, A 4TH GRADER, COULD BECOME A REGULAR, WE KEEP LOSING IN MATCHES.
LATELY, THE MOOD'S BEEN PRETTY BAD, TOO...

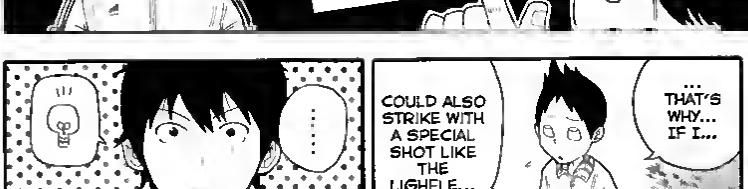
... BUT THE TRUTH IS..
IT'S NOT MAYU'S FAULT WE'RE NOT WINNING

... I UNDERSTAND THAT.
THE REAL REASON THE TEAM ISN'T WINNING...

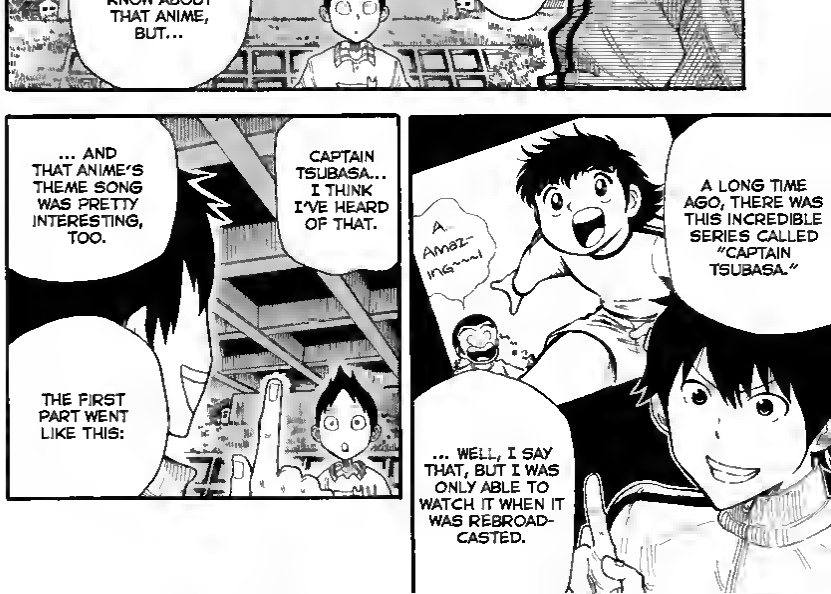

IT FEELS LIKE SHE'S NOT SMILING FROM THE HEART...
MAYU IS ALWAYS SMILING... AND SEEMS TO HAVE FUN PLAYING SOCCER, BUT...
SOMEHOW, HER SMILING FACE SEEMS DIFFERENT THAN USUAL LATELY...

IT'S BECAUSE I'M A CLUMSY FORWARD...
... IS BECAUSE I...
CAN'T SUCCESSFULLY SCORE A GOAL. I'M STRUGGLING EVEN MORE THAN MAYU...
BECAUSE I CAN'T SCORE ANY GOALS...
MAYU'S GOING THROUGH ALL THAT SUFFERING...
.....
THEN I JUST KNOW MAYU AND EVERYONE ON THE TEAM WOULD...
IF I COULD PULL OFF A REAL BANG OF A SPECIAL TECHNIQUE LIKE THE ONES IN "LIGHTNING ELEVEN"...
...
SO YOUR REASON FOR LEARNING A SO-CALLED SPECIAL SHOOTING TECHNIQUE IS FOR THIS MAYU-CHAN'S SAKE
...I SEE.
...WHAT'S THAT, ONII-CHAN,
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT...?
What's that?
...LIGHTNING ELEVEN...?


LIGHTNING ELEVEN IS AN ANIME THAT'S REALLY POPULAR.
THEY USE THESE SUPER AMAZING SPECIAL SHOOTING TECHNIQUES TO DEFEAT THE KICKERS FROM THE EVIL SECRET SOCIETY.
HMM...

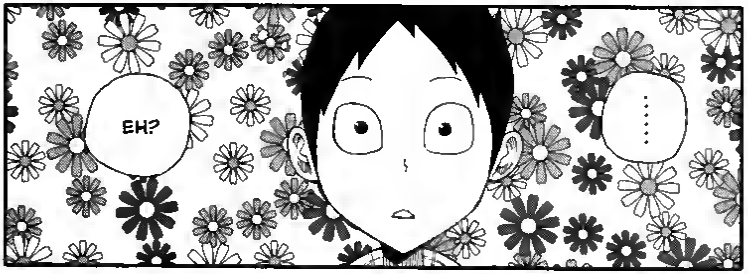

...
...THAT'S WHY... IF I... COULD ALSO STRIKE WITH A SPECIAL SHOT LIKE THE LIGHELE...

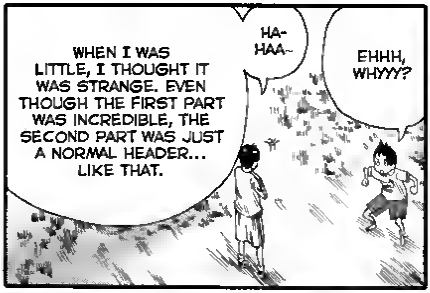
HEY,
I MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THAT ANIME, BUT...


A LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS THIS INCREDIBLE SERIES CALLED "CAPTAIN TSUBASA."
A AMAZ-ING~~~!
... WELL, I SAY THAT, BUT I WAS ONLY ABLE TO WATCH IT WHEN IT WAS REBROAD-CASTED.
CAPTAIN TSUBASA... I THINK I'VE HEARD OF THAT.
... AND THAT ANIME'S THEME SONG WAS PRETTY INTERESTING, TOO.
THE FIRST PART WENT LIKE THIS:

"THE LIGHTNING SHOT THAT WILL ONE DAY DECIDE IT!!"
... IS WHAT IT SAID.
OOOOHH!!
THAT'S GREAT, WHAT KIND OF SHOT IS THAT?!
Grin
...NOW THEN,
FOR THE SECOND PART, WHAT SHOT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
...!
UHHH THE TOR-NADO SHOT?
NOPE.
AH!! I GOT IT! IT'S THE HIGH SPEED SPLIT PASS!!
I SAID IT WAS A KIND OF SHOT, DIDN'T I?
EHHH, I DON'T KNOW!
WHY'RE YOU LAUGH-ING!!
FUFU-FUU...

Point
THE ANSWER IS
A "HEADER,"
SEE?

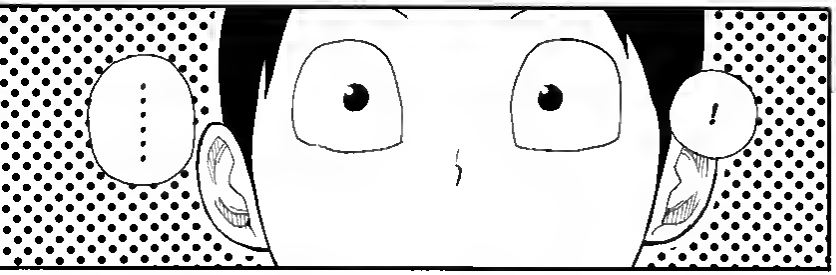

EH?


WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE. EVEN THOUGH THE FIRST PART WAS INCREDIBLE, THE SECOND PART WAS JUST A NORMAL HEADER... LIKE THAT.
HA-HAA~
EHHH, WHYYY?

... YOU'RE LYING!! THAT'S JUST A NORMAL ONE!!
THE POINT IS, IT'S THE TRUTH.
IT SAYS, "A HEADER THAT WILL SHINE ONE DAY."

I THINK MAYBE THAT SONG WANTED TO SAY THIS:
... BUT YOU KNOW,

"EVEN IF MADE WITH A HEADER, 1 GOAL IS
1 GOAL."


.....
!

... KANTA, YOU ALSO SHOULDN'T OVERREACH YOURSELF.
ISN'T IT BETTER RIGHT NOW TO DO WHAT YOU ARE ABLE TO DO?

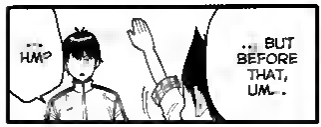
... FROM THE BE-GINNING, THAT SONG
IS ABOUT A PLAYER WHO ISN'T AIMING FOR THE TITLE OF "ACE".
... THAT'S WHY, RIGHT NOW, WHAT WILL "ONE DAY DECIDE IT" IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.

YOU CAN PULL OFF A HEADER, RIGHT?
.....
... BUT...
I...
THERE ARE 11 PEOPLE OUT THERE, YOU KNOW.
... SAYING "I, I" MAKES IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE ACTING ALONE.
.....
YOU CAN STILL WIN.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PULL OFF A SPECIAL SHOOTING TECHNIQUE,

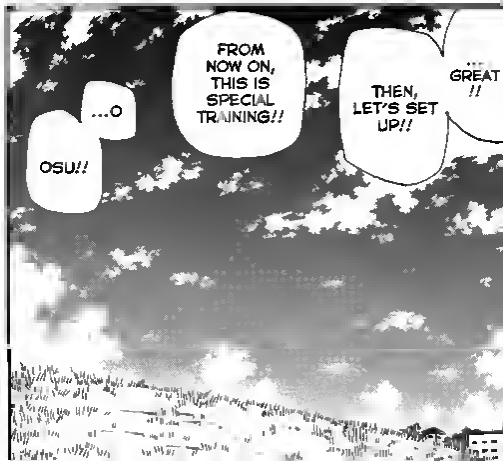
... ASIDE FROM ACTING FOR THAT GIRL'S SAKE,
THE IMPORTANT THING IS WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE TEAM, ISN'T IT?
Y...
YEAH.
... AL-RIGHT.
I CAN'T TEACH YOU THE OVERHEAD SHOT, BUT
HOW ABOUT I TEACH YOU THE ART OF HEADING?
WANT TO TRY?
...
IT'S YOUR DECISION.

PLEASE
TEACH ME THE HEADER...!!
...OKAY.

HA-HAA~
.....


...HM?
...BUT BEFORE THAT, UM..

.....
WHAT DID THAT SONG MEAN WHEN IT SAID THE HEADER WOULD "SHINE ONE DAY"...?


...O
OSU!!
FROM NOW ON, THIS IS SPECIAL TRAINING!!
THEN, LET'S SET UP!!
...GREAT!!

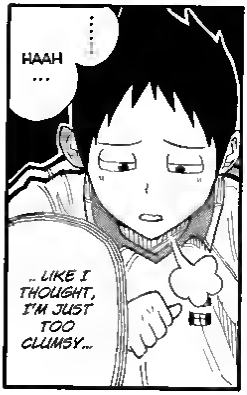
... OKAY EVERY-ONE.
WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN TODAY'S MATCH!!
YEAH!!
... ALRIGHT... TIME TO SEE THE RESULTS OF MY SPECIAL TRAINING...
13
... KANTA-KUN.
MAYU...
LET'S BOTH SCORE A GOAL.
TODAY, WE'LL WIN FOR SURE...!!
Y... YEAH...
... OKAY!
C'MON, LET'S GO.
11
... YOU KNOW, KANTA-KUN,
... LIKE I THOUGHT... THAT ISN'T MAYU'S USUAL SMILING FACE.

I... MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY SOCCER NEXT YEAR.
... HMM ...
I SEE...
... EH, HOW COME?
... BECAUSE OO MIDDLE SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE A GIRLS' SOCCER CLUB.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF OUR TEAM HAD A LOT OF WINS...
... SO, FOR THIS LAST YEAR,
WE WON'T KNOW ...
IF WE DON'T TRY.
WE'RE WEAK.
... THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

IF THE TEAM'S FORWARDS ...
THAT IS, ME AND KANTA-KUN, WORK HARD,
THEN THE TEAM WILL DEFINITELY BECOME STRONGER, TOO!!
!
.....
... FUFU...
THEN WE'VE JUST GOT TO PRACTICE MORE...
... BUT I'VE GOT NO CONFIDENCE IN THAT KINDA STUFF...
BECAUSE THE TEAM HASN'T WON, HER SMILE HAS GOTTEN STRANGE...
.....
SOMEHOW MORE LIVELY.
... MAYU'S SMILING FACE WAS
KICKOFF!!
AND GIVE MAYU HER SMILE BACK...!!!
TODAY FOR SURE, WITH MY GOALS, I'LL BRING THE TEAM TO VICTORY...

S... SORRY...!!
KANTA!! TRY KEEPING IT OVER THERE.

URGH...
KANO
13


HAAH...
..LIKE I THOUGHT, I'M JUST TOO CLUMSY...

ANOTHER CHANCE WILL DEFINITELY COME!!
...Y-YEAH!!

DON'T MIND THEM, KANTA-KUN!!

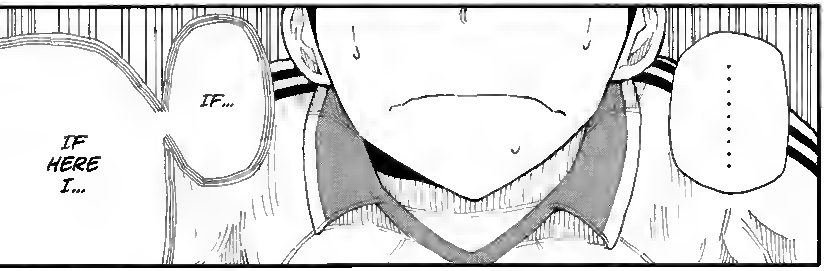
AFTER ALL THAT TROU-BLE..
EVEN THOUGH I UNDERWENT SPECIAL TRAINING SPECIFICALLY FOR TODAY..
...
HM?
ONLY MISSING, AND NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH MY TEAMMATES...
. . . . .
AND THEN I'M THE ONE GETTING ENCOUR-AGEMENT FROM MAYU..
HE CAME ESPECIALLY FOR ME...
You can do it!
... SH-
SHISHOU ...!!!
ALRIGHT ..
. . . . .
Decided that on his own

....!
13
NO

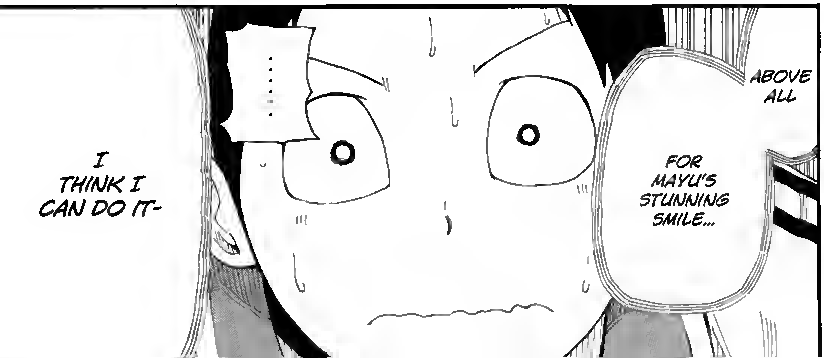
IF I DON'T DO MY BEST HERE,
THEN I'M NOT A MAN!!!
SHISHOU CAME HERE JUST TO WATCH ME..
.. EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE FORMIDABLE.. EVEN THOUGH IT'S DIFFICULT..

!!
NO USE, HUH.
GUH..
CLOSE CALL THERE.
WHOOPS!
13
KANO
SLIDING TACKLE, KANTA-KUN!!
C'MON, LET'S HEAD UP THE FIELD!!
RIGHT!!
11
13
...MAYU...!
CRAP!
KANO
7

SHE PASSED IT TO THE SIDE!!
パス
OKAY
I'LL QUICKLY GET IN FRONT OF THE GOAL.
I PRACTICED COMBINING A HEADER WITH A CROSS AGAINST SHISHOU
... AFTER THAT, AS LONG AS THE BALL COMES HERE-
HERE IT COMES !!!
KANTA, IT'S COMING YOUR WAY!
IT'S A CROSS!
AL-RIGHT
O... OKAY!!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DO AS SHISHOU TAUGHT ME---


IF...
IF HERE I...
.....

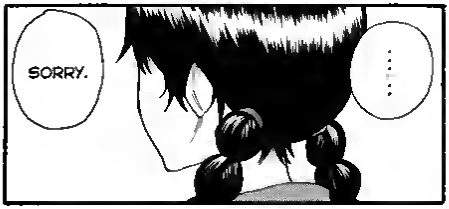
IT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE UP FOR ALL THE MISSES I'VE HAD UNTIL NOW...
IF I SUCCEED WITH THAT SPECIAL SHOT...


I THINK I CAN DO IT-
.....
ABOVE ALL
FOR MAYU'S STUNNING SMILE...

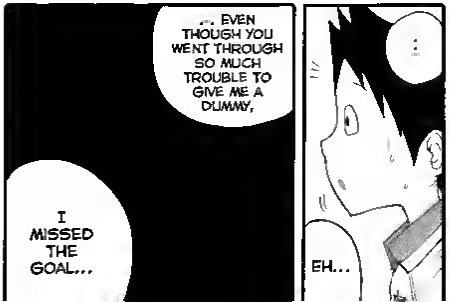
DON'T SPACE OUT, KANTA!!
... EH-
... EH...!
KU--
DAMMIT ...
I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE SPECIAL SHOT...
Whoosh
!
I MESSED UP THE TIMING!!
NICE DUMMY!!
... EH?

...
MAYU!!
!!
...
I'LL
MAKE
IT...

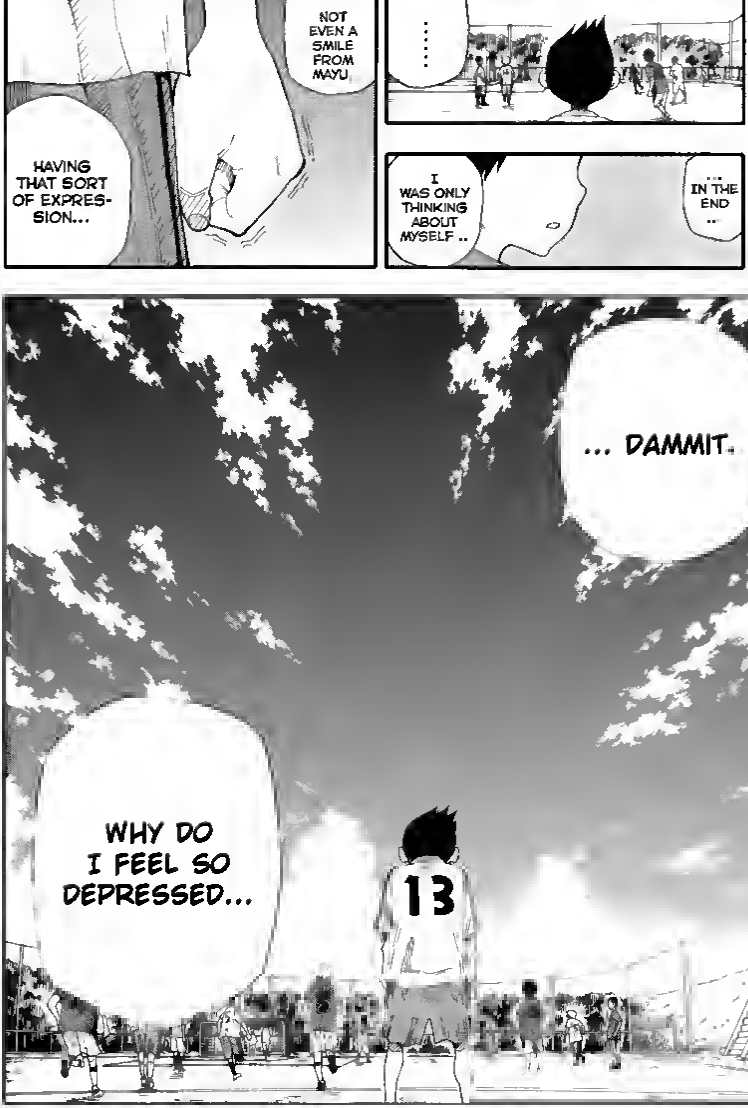
BUT THAT WAS A GREAT COMBINATION FROM OUR 2 TOP PLAYERS!!
TOO BAD.
AAAH-HHH!!
2


SORRY.

.. HOH .. THANKS TO MAYU RUNNING IN, IT DIDN'T LOOK AS BAD.
... D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MAYU!!
13


... EVEN THOUGH YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE TO GIVE ME A DUMMY,
I MISSED THE GOAL...
EH...

... I'M REALLY...
SORRY...
.....
11
... WELL ...
WE HAVE TO GO BACK AND DEFEND
.... AH...
13
11


NOT EVEN A SMILE FROM MAYU.
HAVING THAT SORT OF EXPRESSION...
.....
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF ..
... IN THE END ..
... DAMMIT.
WHY DO I FEEL SO DEPRESSED...
13
.....

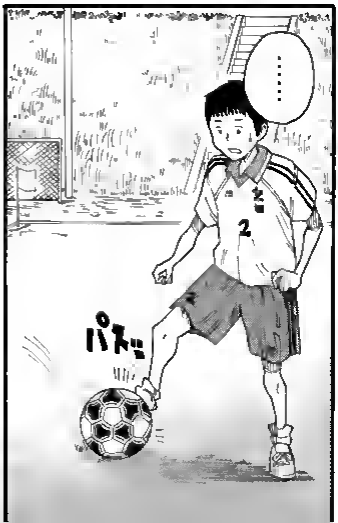
KU
THERE!
IT COMES!
HERE
NICE ONE!
HAH!
IF WE'RE UP AGAINST A TEAM LIKE THIS, THE OUTCOME WILL BE DECIDED IN NO TIME...!!
KANO
UGH
WITH THIS
CUT OFF HIS PATH!!
WE WON'T LET YOU SCORE!!
COME TRY AND STOP ME!!
...HAH!!
IT'S OVER!!
KANO
10

KANO

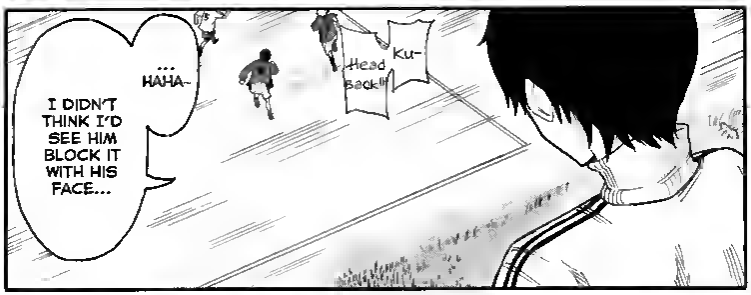
KANTA
KA-
KU-PUU
KU..
WHA...

LET'S GO, EVERYONE!

IT'S A COUNTER-ATTACK!!


.....
パス

YEAH!!!
6
5


I DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE HIM BLOCK IT WITH HIS FACE...
...HAHA-
Ku-
Head back!!

A KICK & DASH!!
It's up to you!
8

THOUGH THEY'RE EXTREMELY CLUMSY, THEY CAN RUN TWICE AS FAST AS THEIR OPPONENTS.
DASH, DASH, DASH!
8
15

WELL, IT'S THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK.
FROM HERE, SKILL BECOMES THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE GAME.

KUH!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!
CROSS IT!!
ALRIGHT, THEY'RE CARRYING IT UP THE SIDE.
BUT IF I BOUNCE IT BACK FROM THE MIDDLE, IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
DAMN...!! SO THEY'VE CROSSED IT, HUH.
THE GUY ON THE OTHER TEAM COMING TO RECEIVE IT IS-

!!
13
TO GET HERE FROM ALL THE WAY OVER THERE, HAS HE BEEN RUNNING THIS WHOLE TIME ..?
.....
HE'S... THE ONE WHO BLOCKED THE BALL WITH HIS FACE BEFORE..
BE-CAUSE ...
THAT'S WHAT SHISHOU TAUGHT ME!!
EVEN IF MADE WITH A HEADER,
1 GOAL IS 1 GOAL.
.....
.. I WON'T HESI-TATE ANY-MORE

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN A HEADER IS...
POSITIONING STRATEGY.

LIKE I'LL LET YOU!!
フスス…
… HAAH!!

KANTA'S NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO WIN, COMPETING AGAINST HIM...
…THIS IS BAD. A DEFENDER IS COMING

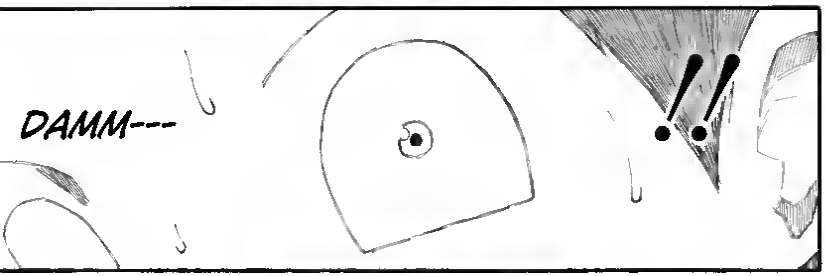
LISTEN, KANTA.
……

WHEN YOUR OPPONENT HAS YOU MARKED,
FIRST, ACT AS IF YOU'RE GOING TO RUN TO HIS OUTSIDE.
HE CHANGED COURSE
13
... ONCE YOU DO THAT, THE ANGLE BETWEEN YOU AND THE BALL WIDENS.
HAH!
TRY KEEPING UP!
YOUR OPPONENT WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AT BOTH YOU AND THE BALL AT THE SAME TIME.
IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN YOUR OPPONENT IS LOOKING AT THE BALL,
ALRIGHT! THE BALL IS-
HE'LL BECOME UNABLE TO LOOK AT YOU.

AND DRIVE IT INTO THE GOAL!!
KANO
13
TIME IT JUST RIGHT AND JUMP.
13
IN THAT INSTANT, YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE.
WITH YOUR OPPONENT'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE BALL,
COME UP ON THE INSIDE.
SLIGHTLY ADJUST YOUR AIM,
BEFORE YOUR OPPONENT CAN TOUCH THE BALL, IF YOU STEAL HIS POSITION-

HOW'S THAT...!!!
KANO
1
thud
15
6

FAIL
KANO
1


DAMM---
!!

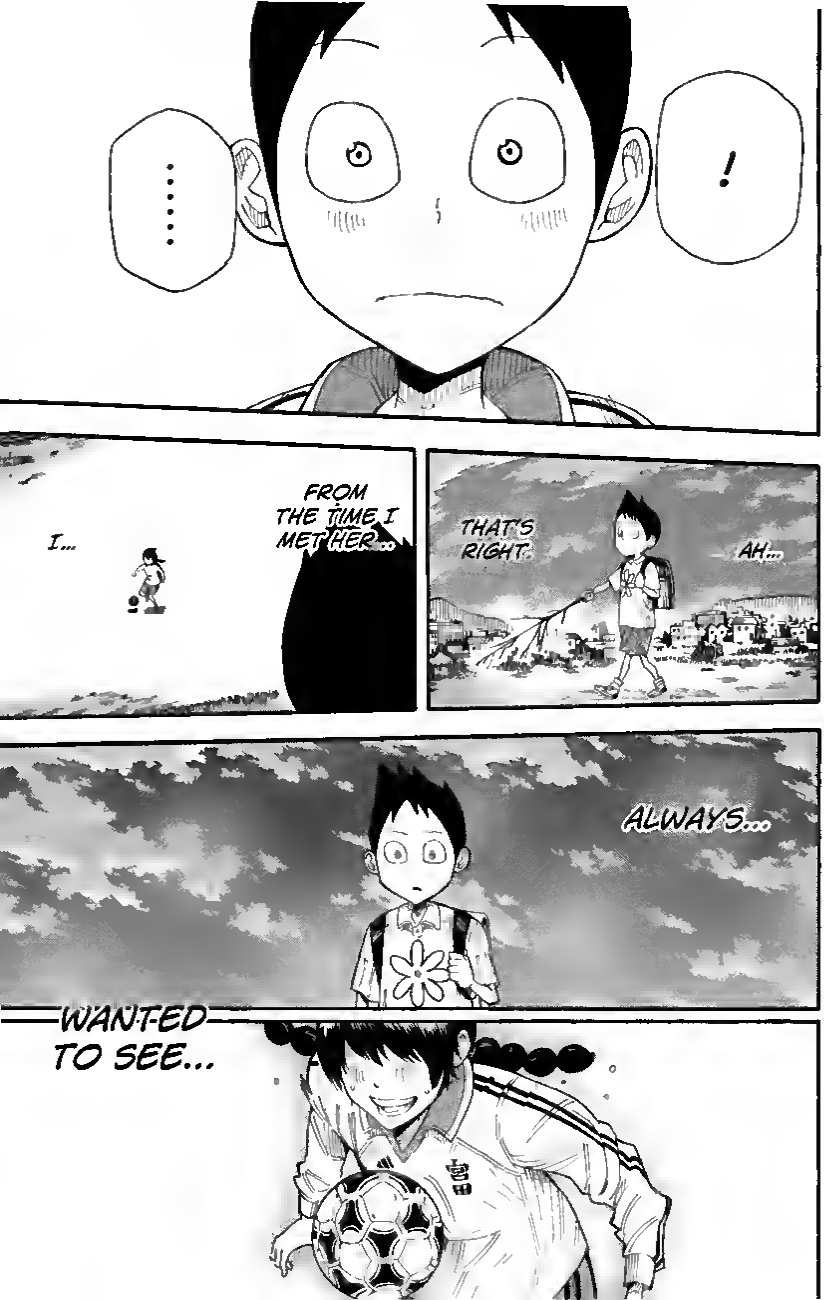
11

.....
WOOOO! YOU REALLY DID IT, MAYU!!
GOO OOO AAA AL!!!
NICE GOAL!!
.....
I GUESS I WAS SAVED AGAIN, HUH...
...IN THE END...
.....

YOU'RE ALWAYS SAVING ME...
SOME-HOW...
MAYU.
KAN-TAAA!!!
DOWAA!!
... ABSO-LUTELY NOTHING!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, YOU GUYS...!?
WH...
WH-
WHA WHA WHA WHA

NICE HEADER!!
YOU WERE REALLY AMAZING!!
8
7
...
EH...
IT'S TRUE. YOU WERE!
That's right!
IF YOUR HEADER HADN'T COME ALONG,
WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN A GOAL!!
BU-
BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO SCORE THE GOAL.
. STUPID WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
YOU MADE A HUGE GAMBLE AGAINST THAT DEFENDER WITH YOUR HEADER, AND IT PAID OFF. IT WAS AMAZING!!
HE'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHY MAYU WAS ABLE TO SCORE AN EASY GOAL.
IN THE END, MAYU...
RIGHT, MAYU!!
.....

…YEAH.
YOU WERE REALLY COOL!!


!
I...
FROM THE TIME I MET HER...
THAT'S RIGHT.
AH...
ALWAYS...
WANTED TO SEE...

FROM RIGHT BESIDE HER...
THAT SMILING FACE...

.....

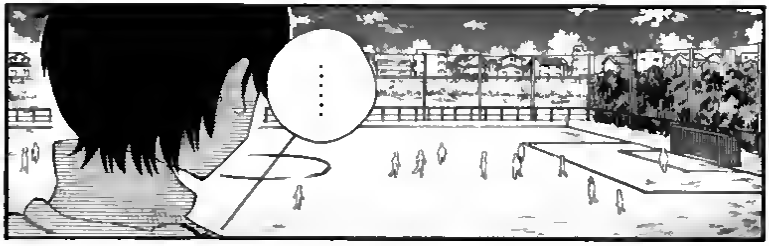
clap
clap
clap
clap

... ALRIGHT, TODAY WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN.
YEAH!!

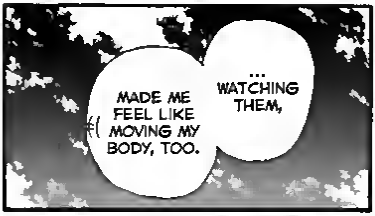
clap
clap

SHISHOU...
.....
AH...
I'M COMING..!!
LET'S GO, KANTA-KUN!!
..HEEEY!!
I DON'T HAVE A SPECIAL SHOOTING TECHNIQUE,
.....
EVEN IF
THAT EVEN I CAN DO.
THERE IS SOMETHING

IT WOULD BE NICE IF OUR TEAM HAD A LOT OF WINS...
FOR THIS LAST YEAR,
GRANT THAT WISH FOR YOU...!!
YOU JUST WAIT; MAYU. I'LL DEFINITELY...
13


……

…HAHA…
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALREADY LEARNED…
THAT HAVING A SPECIAL SHOOTING TECHNIQUE ISN'T NECESSARY.


…WATCHING THEM,
MADE ME FEEL LIKE MOVING MY BODY, TOO.

…NOW THEN
I SHOULD ALSO GET GOING

…HEY.
MAYBE I WILL.

I WONDER IF...
THE FEELINGS WILL BE THE SAME...
FOR THE LAST TIME YOU TELL ME THIS...
Youth~ It's~ burning~
I'll take~ it~ on~

ドロドロ
ドロドロ
ドロドロ